

gathered for storage in steps 301, 302, 303, 304, 305 and 306 which correspond to the group of purchasers of lottery tickets. In step 308, a chat room corresponding to the virtual group 21 is created at the server 101. Access to the chat room created for the virtual group 21 is provided for all of the purchasers (step 309), but access may be limited to the purchasers, e.g. by means of passwords.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked-up" version pursuant to §1.121):

1. (Twice Amended) A system for purchasing lottery tickets over the Internet comprising:

at least one server; and

at least one computer connected to the at least one server via an Internet purchaser entering predefined information into said server via said computer;

wherein said at least one server automatically forms at least one virtual group of lottery ticket purchasers based on the predefined information entered by the purchasers, which sets the purchasers for the group, the at least one server storing group information for the at least

one virtual group which includes entered choices for the predefined information;

wherein the at least one server stores lottery information about at least one lottery;

wherein the at least one server causes the lottery tickets to be purchased for the purchasers according to the group information and the lottery information; and

wherein the at least one server communicates results of the purchase of lottery tickets to the purchasers on the basis of the group information.

8. (Twice Amended) A method for purchasing lottery tickets over the Internet in a system including at least one server and at least one computer connected to the server via the Internet purchaser entering predefined information in the server via the computer, the at least one server storing group information, a virtual group of purchasers of lottery tickets, and lottery information on at least one lottery, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) electronically purchasing the lottery tickets according to the group information and the lottery information;

(b) communicating results of the lottery ticket purchasers to the purchasers using the group information; and

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b) according to the group information and the lottery information, unless any of the group information and the lottery information is changed.